

Administration of Barack Obama, 2011

Statement on the Death of Richard E. Chavez

July 27, 2011

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Richard Estrada Chavez yesterday. Richard spent his life in the service of others alongside his brother Cesar and his wife Dolores Huerta, cofounders of the United Farm Workers. It was Richard who designed the UFW's iconic eagle, a symbol of hope that has helped carry the struggle for the rights of farm workers forward for almost five decades.

Throughout his years of service, Richard fought for basic labor rights but also worked to improve the quality of life for countless farm workers. And beyond his work, Richard was a family man. I was honored to have Richard visit the Oval Office last year on Cesar Chavez Day with other family members, and will never forget the stories they shared. Richard understood that the struggle for a more perfect Union and a better life for all America's workers didn't end with any particular victory or defeat, but instead required a commitment to getting up every single day to keep at it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard's family and loved ones. We take comfort in knowing that the work he was passionate about will be continued by all he helped to inspire.

Categories: Statements by the President : Deaths :: Chavez, Richard E.

Names: Chavez, Richard E.; Huerta, Dolores C.; Obama, Michelle.

Subjects: Business and industry : Wage discrimination; Deaths : Chavez, Richard E.; Economy, national : Poverty, efforts to combat; Holidays and special observances : Cesar Chavez Day; Labor issues : Minimum wage; United Farm Workers of America.

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